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Approved For Release 2004/05/13 : CIA-RDP91M00696R000500140002-5

29 July 1977

25X1 MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]
OPP/PPD/ICS

25X1 FROM: [REDACTED]
EO/DCI/NI

SUBJECT: National Intelligence Requirements

1. National Intelligence Requirements (NIRs), published in the form of an Interagency Intelligence Memorandum, are produced when either intelligence collectors or analysts sense that the importance to the U.S. of a given area of the world has changed and that the intelligence requirements for collection on that area should be adjusted accordingly. Individual NIOs manage the production of NIRs by an appropriate interagency group. This type of requirement is a relatively new art form, in that it has been used with some frequency only since the end of the Vietnam War.

2. National Intelligence Requirements have no formal relationship to either DCID 1/2 or to KI/Qs. In some cases, the authors of NIRs have wished to have the DCID 1/2 priorities adjusted at the same time that they have changed the questions that must be answered. They have, in these cases, repaired to the DCID 1/2 Ad Hoc Working Group with an appropriate recommendation. Because it has not been possible, however, to demonstrate that changing DCID 1/2 priorities has any effect on the activity of intelligence collectors or producers, and because the process is arduous and time-consuming, recommendations for changes in priorities by the authors of the NIR's are not anticipated in the future.

for [REDACTED]

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25X1 EO/DCI/NI: [REDACTED] csj
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : John N. McMahon
Acting Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence Community

SUBJECT : National Intelligence Requirements

REFERENCE : NFIB-SC-01275-77, dated 21 July 1977

1. Action Requested: None. This is in response to the questions you raised subsequent to NFIB approval of revised national intelligence requirements for Southeast Asia.

2. Background: In forwarding the national intelligence requirements for Southeast Asia to the NFIB Secretariat for dissemination, you raised the following questions:

- I'm not sure where a NIR fits with DCID 1/2 and KIQs in setting priorities and requirements?
- How many do we have?

--Who utilizes them?

a. Lists of special requirements, such as those developed for Southeast Asia, are an integral and mutually supportive feature of the overall priorities and requirements setting mechanism. At the broadcast and highest level of abstraction, prioritized national intelligence requirements categories are developed via the DCID 1/2 system. These requirements categories are comprehensive in nature,

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and reflect the relative importance of all types of intelligence to our consumers. They are basically standing requirements categories in terms of known needs for the current timeframe. These assigned priorities change from time to time depending on how the intelligence professionals who produce them interpret ever-changing needs of the consumer community which they represent. The lists of special requirements do not disturb the priorities established in DCID 1/2; rather, they provide more detail on what ~~OUR INTERESTS ARE IN THE ESTABLISHED~~ categories and at those priorities.

b. Under the direction of the D/DCI/NI, lists of special requirements are developed when more focused and refined guidance is required. These special requirements are normally time-sensitive, of short duration, and emphasize a certain area of topic. Key Intelligence Questions are also a form of special requirements developed to focus collection and production activities on those areas of national intelligence reporting where improvement is both necessary and feasible.

c. At present, special lists of national intelligence requirements have been developed for Cuba, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Southeast Asia. Development of a list for the Horn of Africa is underway. We believe that it would be useful eventually to develop lists of national intelligence requirements for each region of the world and functional

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complete set of special requirements would round out the system and improve available guidance for the community.

d. Lists of special requirements are used by program managers, producers and collectors to guide their respective activities. However, to maximize the utility of these lists and to provide correlation with other guidance documents, they should be prioritized as outlined in DCID 1/2. The list of special requirements concerning Cuba provides a good example in which prioritized requirements have been found to be more useful to those community elements operating the various tasking systems.